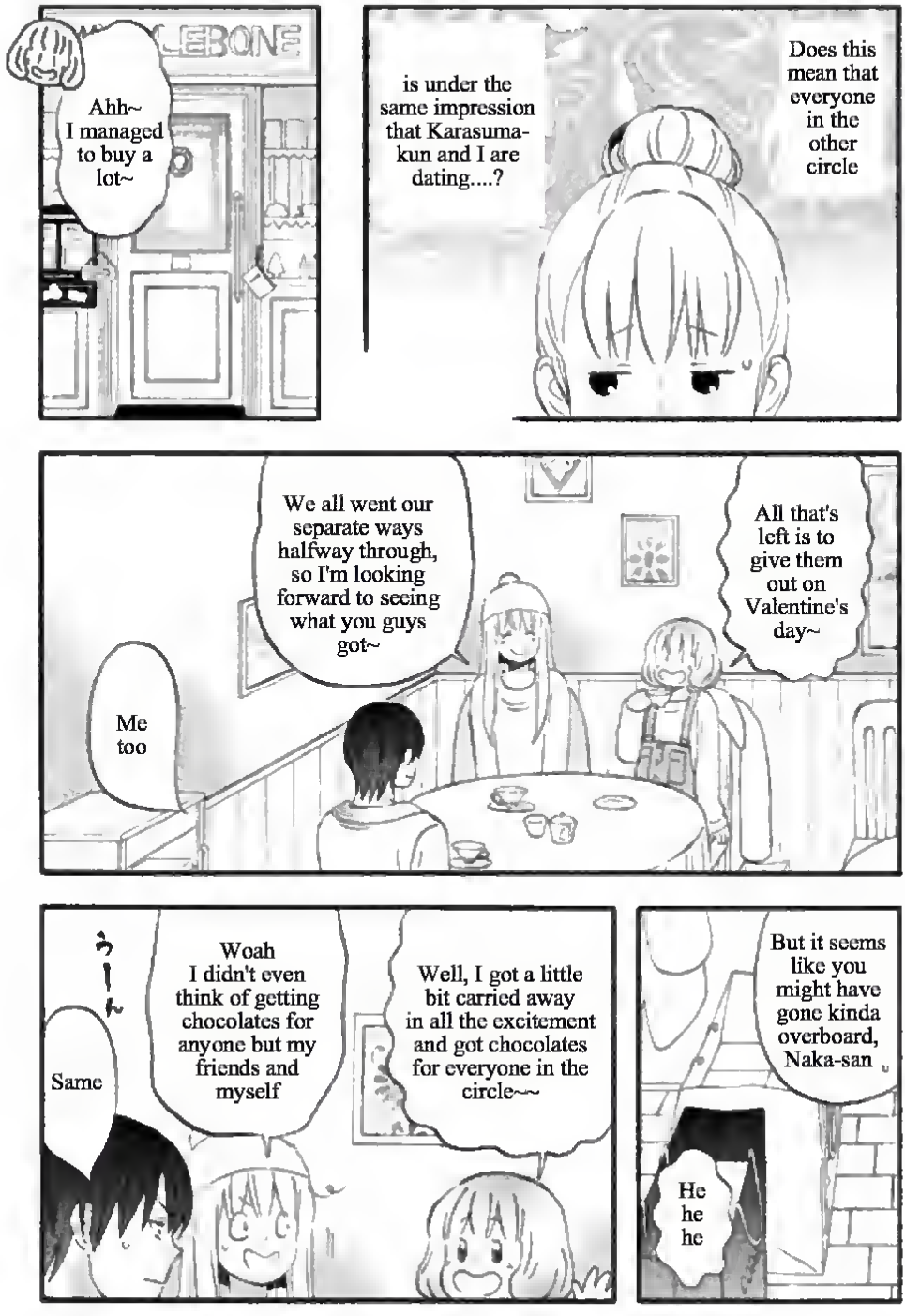
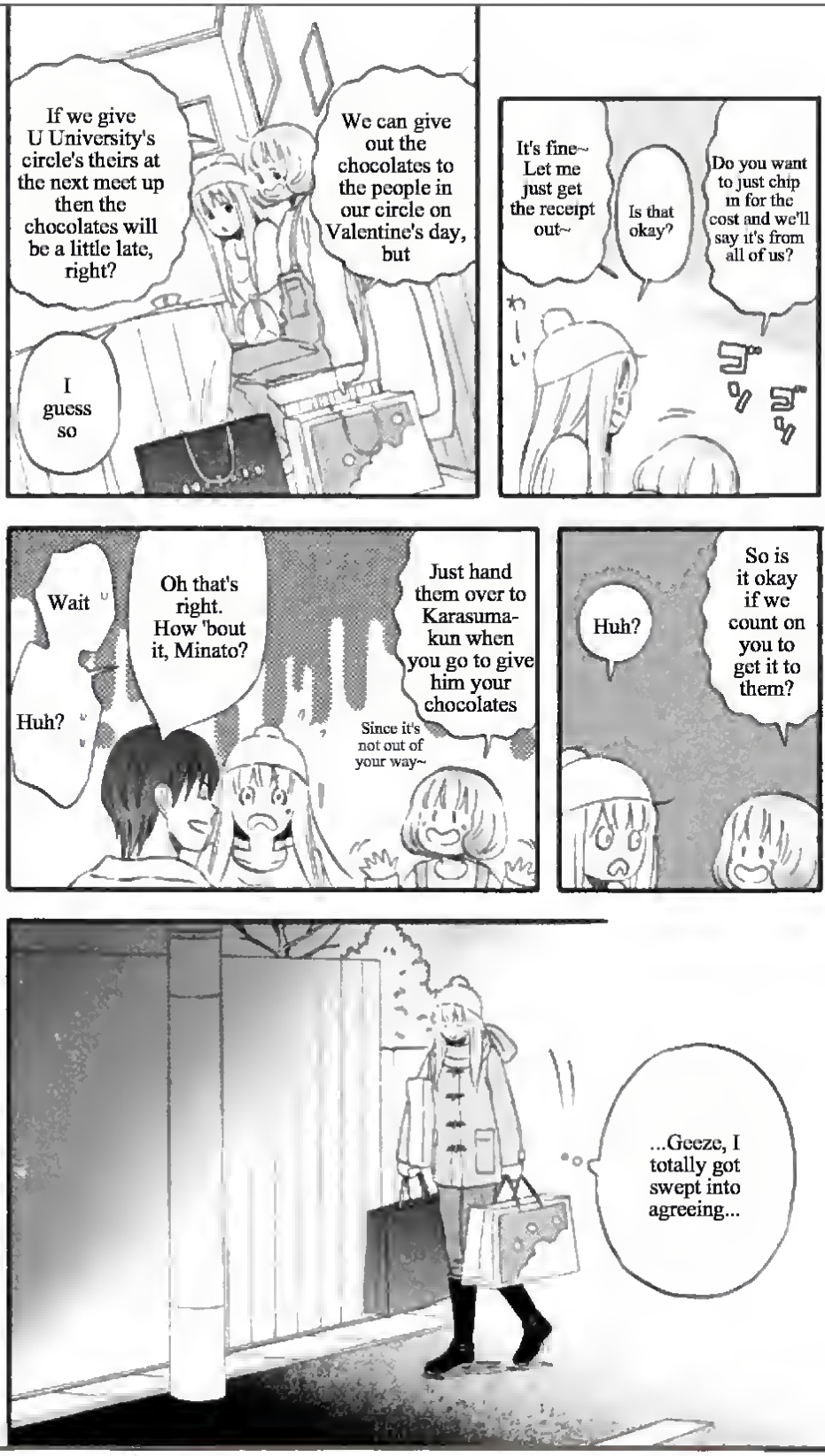
第38話 × 烏丸くんの嘘

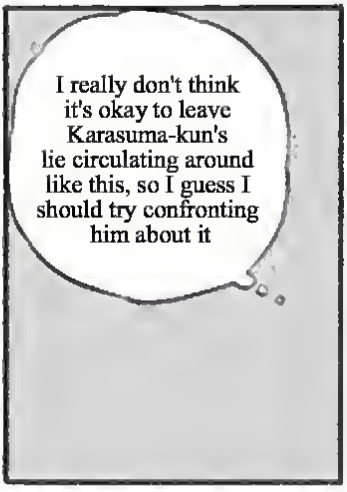
Waahh~ The Valentine chocolate market is finally here~!
Woah~ It's crazy crowded
Is it okay for you to not make them by hand this year~?
Well, it's just that I really wanted to see the chocolate market for myself after seeing how enthusiastic you were about it last year
Chocolates with chewy centers, chocolate drinks, and even soft chocolate truffles!
You can eat any kind of chocolate you can think of there!
Wow

On top of that there's...
And it's not like Mina will be able to spend Valentine's day with Tooru since she's supposed to be working on her entrance exams...
I was wondering how your boyfriend feels about you happily going to see a movie with another guy
You know, that guy from the other college ...I think his name was Karasuma?
Eeeeek... I have to clear up this misunderstanding!
But wait, in order to do that,
I'll have to explain that Karasuma-kun lied about us dating
To- To whom are you referring ...?
"Boy-friend"??

.....
We're BFFs!
That'll just make things more com-plicated...
And then what if Tooru tells Tsukaguchi-senpai...??
Hi
Hello~
H-hi~
Ugh
.....
You should be more careful
Well, maybe it's not my place to say anything, but
Should I say some-t hing or not...
But man... What on earth should I do about the lie Karasuma-kun told...??
And speaking of which
Ahh... I missed my chance to say something back


LEBONE
Ahh~ I managed to buy a lot~
Does this mean that everyone in the other circle
is under the same impression that Karasuma-kun and I are dating....?
We all went our separate ways halfway through, so I'm looking forward to seeing what you guys got~
All that's left is to give them out on Valentine's day~
Me too
Woah I didn't even think of getting chocolates for anyone but my friends and myself
Well, I got a little bit carried away in all the excitement and got chocolates for everyone in the circle~~
Same
But it seems like you might have gone kinda overboard, Naka-san
He he he


If we give U University's circle's theirs at the next meet up then the chocolates will be a little late, right?
We can give out the chocolates to the people in our circle on Valentine's day, but
I guess so
It's fine~ Let me just get the receipt out~
Is that okay?
Do you want to just chip in for the cost and we'll say it's from all of us?
Wait
Oh that's right. How 'bout it, Minato?
Just hand them over to Karasuma-kun when you go to give him your chocolates
Huh?
Since it's not out of your way~
Huh?
So is it okay if we count on you to get it to them?
...Geeze, I totally got swept into agreeing...


I really don't think it's okay to leave Karasuma-kun's lie circulating around like this, so I guess I should try confronting him about it

In reality, Karasuma-kun and I have only been in contact with each other for circle purposes since the trip made everything awkward...
They didn't even ask me to make sure Karasuma-kun and I are really dating...

Were you able to buy a lot of chocolates?
Yeah, I bought a ton
And are they all for your friends or....?

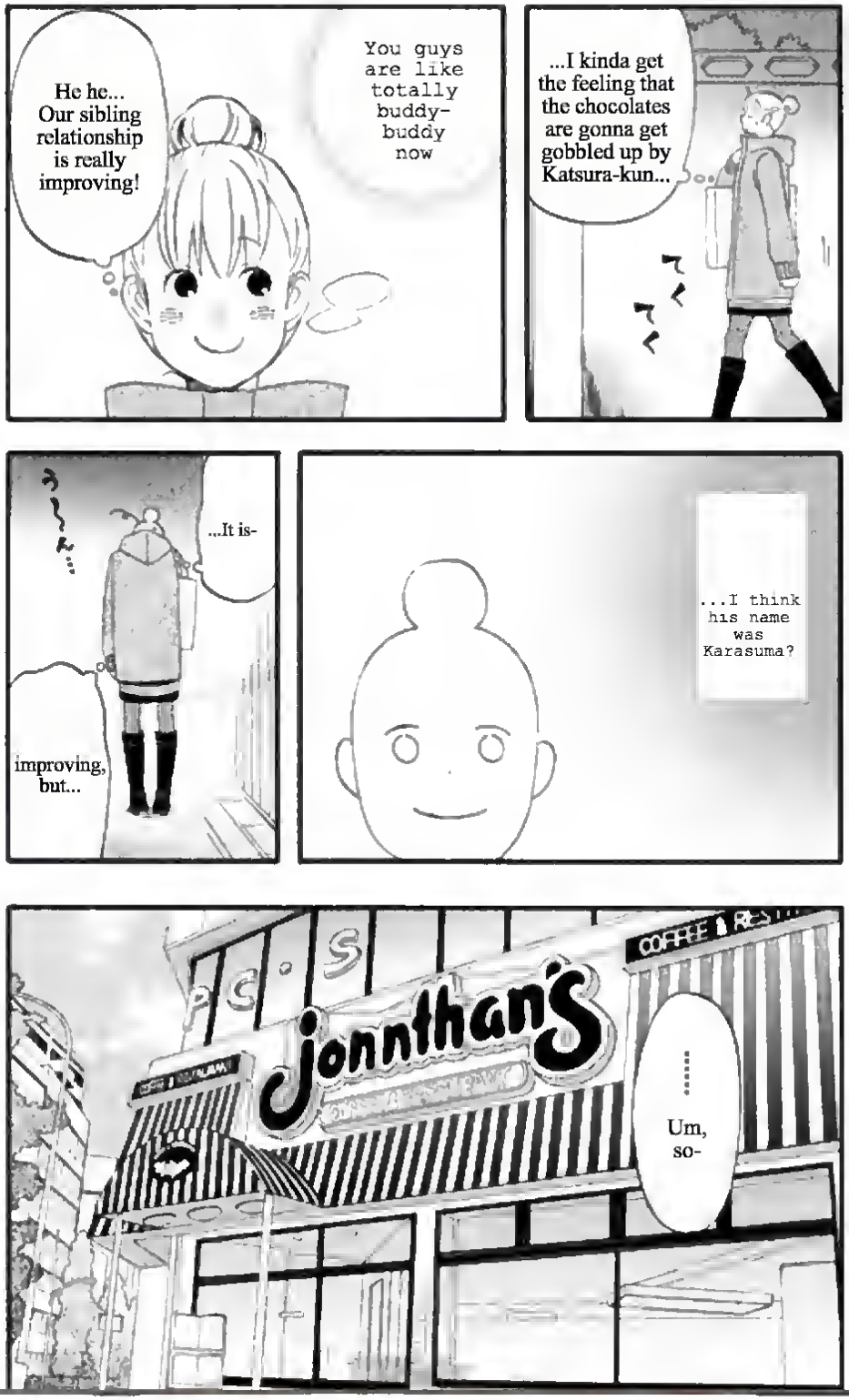
I'm home~
Welcome back

I want to see my little girl give some chocolates to a boyfriend for once~!
Yeah yeah

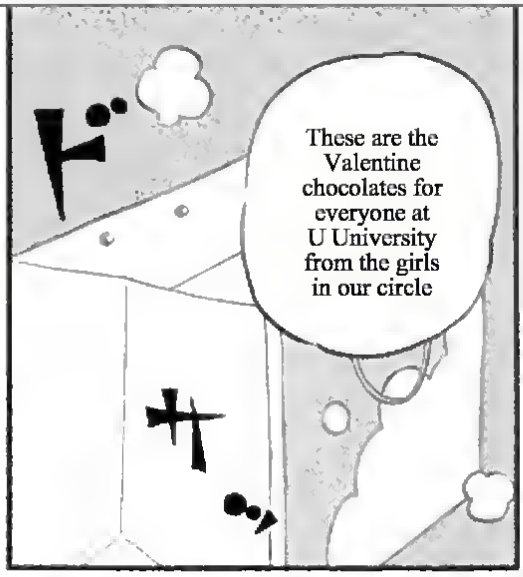
So even though it's a little early, I'll just go ahead and give it to him now
But it would be too embarrassing to give them to him in front of everyone in the circle on Valentine's day
Well, I have some chocolates for Tooru as his sister
Wow~ I haven't seen you in like forever~
Tooru's going to get chocolates again this year, right? So we're currently negotiating how he's gonna give them all to me
He just tells it like it is, huh
Come in~ Come in~
You surprised me
Huh, why are you here, Katsura-kun?

Huh!!? Valentine chocolates!?
It's a little early, but here
And you're giving them to Tooru??
Ohhh
Oh, yeah
What's up?
You guys are like totally buddy-buddy now
But you know, I really never thought the day would come when I would get to see such a happy scene like this...
I'll go fix some tea for you, ok~?
Wow~ I'm so grateful~
Why are you making a face like it's for you?
Are you supposed to be our dad?
They grow up so fast...
When I think back to how you two were when you were in high school, you've really come such a long way...

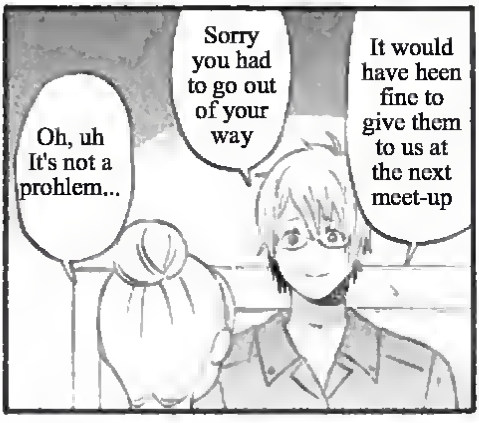
Kay
Thanks for the tea
Well, I'm gonna head out since I need to get to work
スクッ
Yeah... Hey wait, are you already eating those chocolates?
もぐもぐ
Don't you think it seems like your sister has mellowed out?
It's fine, isn't it? You're gonna get some from your girlfriend anyway
Hmmm?
……
We haven't texted or called each other at all lately because I don't want to bother her
もぐ…
……
You would think... but she's been so busy with preparing for her test, that I'm not so sure


He he... Our sibling relationship is really improving!
You guys are like totally buddy-buddy now
...I kinda get the feeling that the chocolates are gonna get gobbled up by Katsura-kun...
...It is-
improving, but...
...I think his name was Karasuma?
Jonnthan's
Um, so-

We were hoping you could hand them out to everyone tomorrow
Sorry it's so bulky
Thanks, I'm sure everyone will he really happy


These are the Valentine chocolates for everyone at U University from the girls in our circle

And when everyone asked me, I couldn't really say no
.....


It would have heen fine to give them to us at the next meet-up
Sorry you had to go out of your way
Oh, uh It's not a prohlem...

They wanted me to just give you everyone's when I gave you yours
Wha-
.....

You see, they think that...
You and I are dating, so...

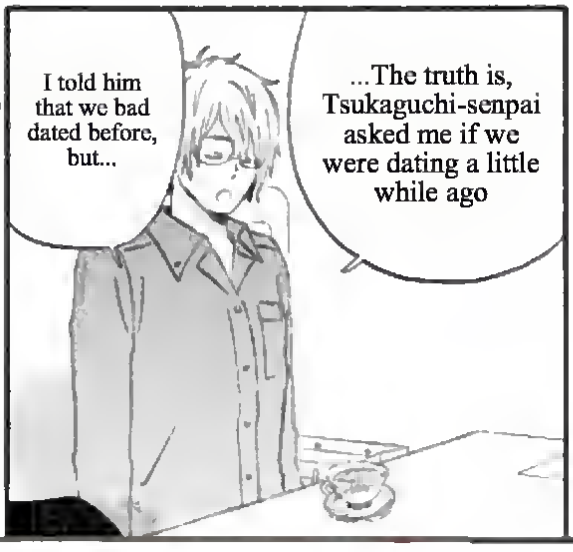
I think it's your fault since you're the one who let Tsukaguchi-senpai think that we're still dating!

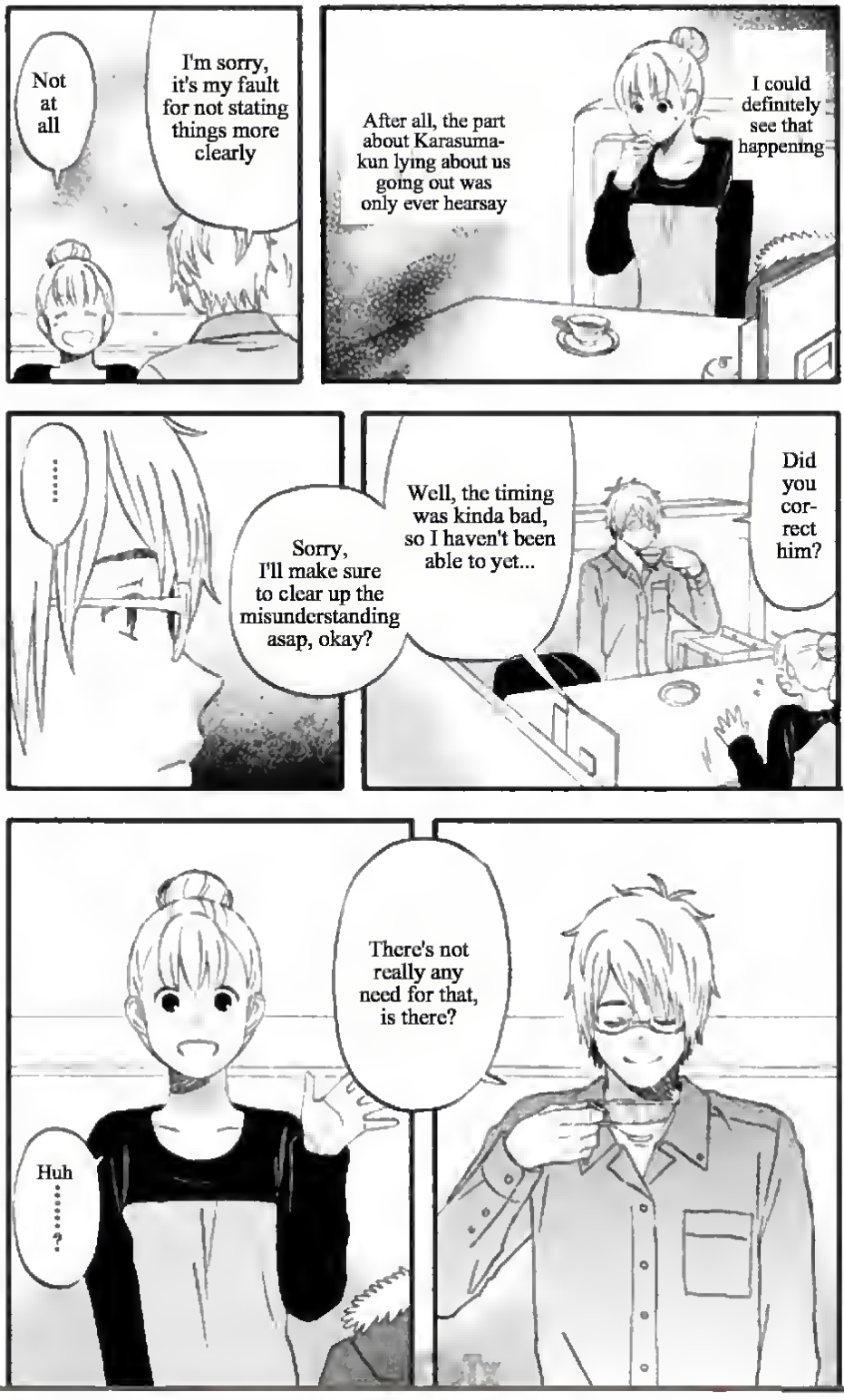
You can do this, Minato! Don't back down...!
Y-yeah... About that...
Seri-ously?

Ugh... I can't just say that straight to his face

...I- I wonder why~?

So it actually was just a misuoderstanding on Tsokaguchi-senpai's part
Oh... So that's how it was...
He must have misunderstood me...


I told him that we bad dated before, but...
...The truth is, Tsukaguchi-senpai asked me if we were dating a little while ago


Not at all
I'm sorry, it's my fault for not stating things more clearly
After all, the part about Karasuma-kun lying about us going out was only ever hearsay
I could definitely see that happening
.....
Sorry, I'll make sure to clear up the misunderstanding asap, okay?
Well, the timing was kinda bad, so I haven't been able to yet...
Did you correct him?
Huh.....?
There's not really any need for that, is there?

It seems to me that we should just start going out for real
I don't bave any reservations and you'll be breaking up with Tooru in the spring, right?
I already told you that you can pick wbat-ever suits you best
If you don't like it, then we can say that I was just joking
You're not being serious, are you?
Ah ha...

Which reminds me, I haven't heard your answer from the trip. What did you end up deciding was the lie?

Or the me that's just a good friend like I've always been...
The me that pretends to be fine while waiting for you to break up with your brother

...While I stayed blissfully unaware, I caused you so much pain...
That's why
.....
I've been nothing but trouble for you, Karasuma-kun
.....

I don't think it makes sense
To just go out with you because I can't go out with Tooru...
Well, if you want to do things that make sense
Then shouldn't you go tell your little brother the truth, Minato?

That his girlfriend is really his older sister
If it's too hard for you to tell him yourself, I wouldn't mind passing it along to him
You know, I have a feeling he might be more forgiving than you think
I'm sorry, but.....
Please, for Tooru's sake...
No... You can't...
S-stop! Stop!
Promise me you won't say anything
Please promise me you won't tell him

I got it,
I promise
But
Both of them said practically the same thing...
I won't do it for free, you know?
It's like you're stepping on a minefield
What would you dn if the person you told was a had person?
If you didn't want your secret to be revealed then you shouldn't have talked ahout it so freely

But
It's... not like you're a bad guy, right...?
Sure
I don't think of myself as that much of a bad guy, either
But you know, I definitely don't think I'm one of the good guys
Wait
What does he want in return for keeping quiet...?

I'm talking to a stranger
I feel like
.....
Was Karasuma-kun always this kind of person?
It's
...I mean, for you to be saying such things...
I'm sorry... I had just never considered-
.....
Honestly shocking to me...

I was boping to never have to tell Tooru the truth and just fade out of his life, but
He's right. I need to face facts.
It doesn't make sense
But it's not like I can guarantee anything
Well, even if you don't give me anything, I might not tell anyone
I'd rather he heard it from me...
...If he's going to hear the truth from someone
What be'll think? Isn't it obvious?
That the girl be's been dating is in reality his older sister
I'm genuinely interested in what he'll think once be knows

It's dis-
gusting
But
I don't care what they think of me since I brought this upon myself
Even if we're not related by blood, people around us will find us repulsive...
It they think Tooru's disgusting, too...?
If they think I'm disgusting then that's fine, but
So gross
If not only Tooru finds out, but everyone around him...
Ew...
Tooru?

I need to remember that I'm not the only one stepping on a minefield
He's finally made some friends
And he seems like he's really enjoying college life
Tooru's right here with me
...and I don't know what I should do...